

SELFRIIDGE FIELD, BUILDING NO. 801
(Resident Engineers Office)
(BE Maintenance Shop)
West side Jefferson Ave., south of George Ave.
Mt. Clemens vicinity
Macomb County
Michigan

HAER No. MI-116-HH

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50-MTCLE.V,
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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Great Lakes Systems Office
1709 Jackson Street
Omaha, NE 68102-2571

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

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SELFRIDGE FIELD HAER No. MI-116-HH
BUILDING #801 (RESIDENT ENGINEERS OFFICE)
(B.E. Maintenance Shop)

Location: West of Jefferson Avenue South of George Avenue
Selfridge Air National Guard Base
Mt. Clemens vic., Macomb Co. MI
U.S.G.S. Mount Clemens East Quadrangle, Universal Transverse
Mercator Coordinates: 17.350290.4719020

Significance: This building represents the metal prefabricated buildings erected
at Selfridge as the base expanded to meet its Cold War era
defense mission.

Description: This building is a rectangular plan, 32 foot wide by 101 feet 10
inch front gabled structure erected on a concrete slab with a steel
truss frame. Its walls and roof are sheathed in vertically seamed
metal panels, and a manufacturer's identification plate imprinted
"BUTLER" occurs at the apex of the gable ends. All elevations
display explicitly functional piercing patterns. The principal (east)
elevation presents six bays defined by four steel frame windows
and two pedestrian entry doors. These two doors are located in
a front gabled projecting aluminum sided vestibule situated near
the northeast corner of the building adjacent to a small shed
roofed, corrugated metal storage unit. The north elevation
presents the most symmetrical composition on the building, its
three bays defined by steel framed windows. The west elevation
displays eight bays defined by a central pedestrian entry door
flanked by a variety of steel framed and vinyl and sash and sliding
replacement windows. The entrance is shielded by a shed roof
hood, while a linear shed roof storage unit extends along much of
the south bay of this elevation. The south elevation displays two
bays represented by a projecting gabled entry vestibule with
paired steel pedestrian entry doors that is flanked on the west by
an aluminum track window.

The floor plan of this prefabricated building consists of a large
workshop that consumes the southern 40 feet of building except
for a 10 by 12 foot office partitioned by frame walls in the
southwest corner building and a store room accessed by a steel
mesh door in the center of the building. A hallway leads
northward to a second large workshop area that occupies most of
the north section of the building except for a locker room in the
northeast corner and an office in the northwest corner of the

building. The interior divisions are frame and covered in wallboard although the offices are now sheathed in paneling and are carpeted.

History: The Resident Engineers Office was erected in 1958 by the Selfridge Office of the Post Engineer from plans for a "rigid wide frame building" from the Butler Manufacturing Company of Indianapolis, Indiana.¹ In the 1970s Building #801 was converted to use as a shop, storage and maintenance facility as well as a plumbing shop for general base operations.² It is currently vacant.

Sources: Anonymous, Brief History of Selfridge Air Force Base, 1917-1960, unpublished ms., Air Force Historical Research Agency, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama, 1960.

_____, Guide and Directory, Selfridge Air Force Base, Selfridge Air Force Base, Michigan, 1960.

Copy of construction drawing, dated September 12, 1958, U.S. Army Engineer District, Detroit, in possession of Selfridge Base Museum, Mt. Clemens, Michigan. Floor Plan Elevations and Details, Sheet 3 of 3, File SF 5/970.

Interview, Colonel Robert Stone (Ret.), Curator, Selfridge Base Museum, October 13, 1995.

Interview, Eric Reeve, Selfridge Environmental Management, October 12, 1995.

Historian: William E. Rutter
Midwest Environmental Consultants, Inc.
May, 1996

¹Original construction plans on file, Selfridge Base Museum and Civil Engineers Office

² Interview, Colonel Robert Stone (ret.), Curator, Selfridge Base Museum, October 13, 1995.